

of having a large white speculum on the outer six or seven primaries, is only ornamented with a small concealed spot of white on the fifth quill. Culm. 23 mm., wing 109, tars. 35.6.

Hab. Mountains of Sumba. Named in honour of Miss Maria de Korte.

MR. HOWARD SAUNDERS gave a short account of a visit made by Col. H. W. Feilden and himself to the Pyrenees, chiefly the Eastern districts. Continuously unfavourable weather and heavy falls of soft snow hampered their movements, but they managed to obtain some interesting facts regarding the distribution of birds. Inasmuch as Catalonia, the chief province visited, was the most prosperous and highly cultivated portion of Spain, birds of prey and other conspicuous species could hardly be expected there, while the lagoons and swamps on the Gulf of Rosas, which made so brave a show on the map, were now either drained and cultivated, or were peaty pools and mere bog-holes. Investigation indicated that the asserted existence of *Tetrao tetrix*, even in the *Eastern* Pyrenees, is an error; that *Bonasa betulina* is seldom, if ever, found to the eastward of Luchon, and chiefly to the westward of Gabas; while *Tetrao urogallus* is more abundant in the spruce-fir woods than is generally supposed. There was no evidence that *Gyps fulvus* nests anywhere within the French frontier. A line of migration of some importance appeared to pass from Catalonia, over the Col de Puymorens (6300 feet), to the valley of the Ariège, in France; and Turtle-doves, Willow-Warblers, &c. were found above snow covered with footprints of the Ptarmigan.

XLIX.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 420.]

95. *Barrett-Hamilton on the Birds of the Harrow District.*

[Harrow School Scientific Society's Memoirs. 1891. Harrow Birds. By G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton. 8vo. Harrow, 1892.]

This is a useful supplement to Mr. J. E. Harting's 'Birds

of Middlesex,' an excellent work in 1866, though now somewhat out of date. Mr. Barrett-Hamilton has been assisted by Dr. Edward Hamilton—whose experiences of Harrow began in 1828—and by many other observers; the result being a list of 198 species, including one in the *Addenda* to be found at the *beginning* of the volume. Altogether this is one of the best books of its class: clear, concise, and free from padding.

96. *Butler on Foreign Cage-Finches.*

[Foreign Finches in Captivity. By Arthur G. Butler, Ph.D., F.L.S., &c. Illustrated with Sixty Plates by F. W. Frohawk, F.E.S.; coloured by hand. Parts IV.-X. 4to. London, 1894-96. L. Reeve & Co.]

Mr. Butler has now completed his handsome volume, having issued six parts since our last notice (*Ibis*, 1895, p. 390). The work can hardly be considered strictly scientific, but it contains good coloured plates, drawn by Mr. Frohawk, which may often be useful for reference, and there are many particulars about the ways of Finches in captivity which will not be found elsewhere.

The following species are illustrated in the last seven parts:—

Part IV. *Phonipara canora*; *Stictospiza formosa*; *Sporaginus melpodus*, *S. subflavus*, *S. amandava*; *Lagonosticta minima*, *L. cerulescens*; *Granatina granatina*.

Part V. *Estrilda phenicotis*, *E. cinerea*, *E. astrilda*; *Aegintha temporalis*; *Neochmia phaeton*; *Emblema picta*; *Pytelia afra*, *P. phœnicoptera*; *Zonæginthus bellus*.

Part VI. *Erythrura psittacea*, *E. prasina*; *Poephila mirabilis* and var. *gouldiæ*, *P. cincta*; *Steganophora guttata*; *Amadina fasciata*; *Taniopygia castanotis*.

Part VII. *Stictoptera bichenori*; *Aidemosyne modesta*, *A. malabarica*, *A. cantans*; *Uroloncha acuticauda*, *U. striata*; *Munia punctulata*, *M. castaneithorax*, *M. malacca*.

Part VIII. *Munia atricapilla*, *M. maja*, *M. oryzivora*; *Amauresthes fringilloides*; *Spermestes cucullata*, *S. bicolor*; *Hypochaeræ aenea*; *Vidua principalis*.

Part IX. *Steganura paradisea*; *Chera procne*; *Penthetria ardens*; *Penthetriopsis macrura*; *Pyromelana capensis*, *P. afra*.

Part X. *Pyromelana flammiceps*, *P. oryx*, *P. franciscana*; *Quelea quelea*; *Q. russi*; *Foudia madagascariensis*; *Nesacanthus eminentissima*; *Ploceus baya*.

97. *Büttikofer on his Expedition to Central Borneo.*

[Zoologische Skizzen aus der niederländischen Expedition nach Central Borneo. Von J. Büttikofer. C. R. du Troisième Congrès Intern. de Zool., Leyde, 1895, pp. 211-227. 1896.]

Mr. Büttikofer has now issued in print the very interesting account of his Bornean Expedition of 1893-4 which he gave to the International Zoological Congress at Leyden last year. On the 17th November, 1893, he left Batavia for Pontianak on the west coast of Borneo, and proceeded up the river Kapuas along with Dr. Hallier, the botanist of the expedition, also accompanied by Prof. Molengraaff as geologist, and Dr. Nieuwenhuis as anthropologist. After five days' steaming, the head of the navigation of the Kapuas was attained at Poeloe Sibau, 896 kilometres from its mouth. Here, nearly in the centre of Borneo, two stations were selected for collecting purposes: first, on Mount Kenepai, which rises not far from the Sarawak boundary to an elevation of some 3600 feet, and, secondly, on the western slope of the Liang Kubung range, where a convenient resting-place was discovered in a cavern at a height of about 2400 feet. A lively description is given of both these stations and their surrounding attractions—Gibbons, Hornbills, and other rarities, and in the latter locality examples of *Calyptomena hosei* were obtained. At the end of July 1894 Mr. Büttikofer left Borneo and returned to Europe. Although the collection of birds thus made is not yet completely worked out, it is understood that no examples of new species were obtained: the avifauna of this part of Borneo being nearly identical with that of the interior of Sarawak, where Mr. Hose has worked so long and so successfully. We shall all look forward to Mr. Büttikofer's narrative of his expedition, which will be published as soon as the whole of the various collections have been thoroughly examined.

98. *Cory on the Natural History of Florida.*

[Hunting and Fishing in Florida, including a Key to the Water-birds known to occur in the State. By Charles B. Cory. Boston, Mass., 1896.]

Mr. Cory has passed ten winters in Florida, engaged in

collecting, and is consequently well qualified to give us an account of the various sports pursued there, as well as of the Mammals, Birds, and Fishes to be met with in what is still, to a great extent, a veritable wilderness. This he has done in the present nicely printed and well illustrated volume. Commencing with the Seminole Indians and their manners and customs, he proceeds to the "panther" (*i. e.* puma), black bear, deer, alligators, and turkeys of the State; the hunting-grounds are then discussed generally, and a chapter is devoted to a systematic list of the Mammals. The second half of the volume is occupied by a Key to the Water-birds of Florida, being those most likely to engage the sportsman's attention, followed by a systematic list of these according to the nomenclature and classification of the A. O. U.; concise descriptions and notes on the range and occurrence in Florida being appended to each species. We have no doubt that this will serve as a very useful handbook for the numerous winter visitors to the Gulf State. For the benefit of the scientific worker the Key is issued separately in limp covers: an excellent arrangement.

99. *Dresser's Supplement to the 'Birds of Europe.'*

[A History of the Birds of Europe, including all the Species inhabiting the Western Palearctic Region.—Supplement. By H. E. Dresser, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c. Part VI. December 1895; Part VII. March 1896; Part VIII. June 1896.]

The sixth, seventh, and eighth parts of Mr. Dresser's Supplement contain coloured figures of the following species:—

- Part VI. *Podoces panderi*; *Garrulus hyrcanus*; *Picus leucopterus*, *P. pælzami*, *P. mauritanus* (head), *P. numidicus* (head), *P. minor* (head), *P. danfordi* (head); *Gecinus flavirostris*; *Scops brucei*; *Bubo ascalaphus*; *Accipiter badius*; *Mergus cucullatus*.
- Part VII. *Mareca americana*; *Columba casiotis*, *C. eversmanni*; *Pterocles senegallus*, *P. coronatus*; *Bonasa griseiventris*; *Porphyrio poliocephalus*, *Ægialitis vocifera*; *Hæmatopus moquini*; *Totanus macularius* [misprinted *maeularius* on Plate].
- Part VIII. *Ibis æthiopica*; *Phasianus persicus*, *P. principalis*; *Tetrao uralensis*; *Ægialitis pecuaria*; *Totanus solitarius*, *T. flavipes*; *Sterna maxima*; *Pelagodroma marina*.

The following are described but not figured:—*Garrulus minor*, *Milvus melanotis*, *Turtur cambayensis*, and *Falco mil-ripes*; the last for the excellent reason that it has already appeared in the ‘Birds of Europe’ as a very old Saker. We observe that, under *Porphyrio poliocephalus*, in spite of what Selater has stated in a former number of this journal (*Ibis*, 1879, p. 196), Mr. Dresser still quotes “*Porphyrio veterum*” as a specific name used by S. G. Gmelin, instead of only as having been wrongly attributed to him by later authors. As regards *Grus antigone*, we are doubtful as to the authenticity of the alleged occurrence of this Crane in Central Asia. It is, we believe, a resident Indian species, which very seldom, if ever, enters the boundaries of the Western Palæartic Region.

100. *Finn on Experiments with Crateropus canorus.*

[Contributions to the Theory of Warning-colours and Mimicry. No. 1. By Frank Finn, B.A., F.Z.S. Journ. Asiatic Soc. Bengal, 1895, p. 344.]

This paper has been sent to us for notice, but it is more connected with entomology than with ornithology—the common Indian Babbler being merely the “vile body” through which certain experiments with insects were conducted. And as yet no definite results appear to have been obtained.

101. *Finsch on Bird-protection and Fisheries.*

[Ueber Vertretung von Vogelschutz- und Fischerei-Interessen durch eine Centrale ökonomischer Ornithologie. Von Dr. O. Finsch. Ornith. Monatss. Deuts. Ver. Schutze d. Vogelw. 1895, No. 8.]

Dr. Finsch shows that in three years the Deutsche Fischerei Verein has spent upwards of £2300 in premiums for the destruction of certain animals supposed to be injurious to fisheries. Of this about £750 was devoted to the destruction of 15,436 birds—namely, 12,468 Herons, 86 ‘Fishing-eagles,’ 42 Harriers and Kites, 1569 Dippers, Kingfishers, &c., and 1271 Cormorants. He points out that, so far from being injurious to fisheries, Dippers are very useful, and that the injury caused to fishes by the other birds in the list is a matter of question, which ought to be

settled in a scientific manner. In America the State has taken up the investigation and control of animals supposed to be injurious, by the appointment of a "Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy" in the Department of Agriculture. In Hungary the "Ungarische ornithologische Centrale," whose chief object is the investigation of the Migration of Birds, has, in a similar manner, been placed under the aegis of the Minister of Education. Dr. Finsch urges that in conformity with these precedents, and in the interests of Forestry, Agriculture, and Fisheries, an Institute for the study of Economic Ornithology should be created by the State in Germany.

102. *Godman and Salvin's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'*

[*Biologia Centrali-Americana*: or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. Du Cane Godman and Osbert Salvin. (Zoology.) Parts CXXVI. CXXX. 4to. London, 1896. Published for the Editors by R. H. Porter, 7 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.]

Since our last notice of this excellent work (*Ibis*, 1896, p. 143) good progress has been made. The five parts recently issued contain pp. 481-544 of the "Birds," and give a complete account of the Central American members of the families Trogonidæ, Galbulidæ, Bucconidæ, and Cuculidæ, the last-named group being not quite concluded. We hope soon to have the pleasure of binding up the second volume, which will finish with the Psittacidæ.

103. *Hartert on new Birds from Celebes.*

[Preliminary Descriptions of some new Birds from the Mountains of Southern Celebes. By Ernst Hartert. *Novit. Zool.* iii. p. 69.]

Mr. Hartert describes four new birds from a "very fine collection" lately made by Mr. Alfred Everett in the mountains of Southern Celebes—*Androphilus everetti*, *Chlorocharis squamiceps*, *Cataponera turdoides*, and *Siphia omissa*. *Cataponera* is a new genus allied to *Garrulæ*. A full list of the collection is promised, and it will be of interest as showing the similarity of some of the species to those of the highlands of Borneo.

104. *Harvie-Brown and Buckley on the Fauna of the Moray Basin.*

[A Fauna of the Moray Basin. By J. A. Harvie-Brown and Thomas E. Buckley. Two vols. Royal 8vo, with Map, Plates, & Cuts. Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1896.]

The completion of these two volumes makes an important advance in the series of well-executed works which Messrs. Harvie-Brown and Buckley have planned to illustrate the Natural History of the northern parts of Great Britain. Reference to the clearly-drawn map at the end of the second volume, and the interesting chapters on the watersheds and other physical features which occupy the first half of the first volume, will show that the Moray Basin, as defined by our authors, occupies a very large and important area of N.E. Scotland. It is divided into two portions by the Moray Firth and Loch Ness, and occupies the whole, or large parts, of Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty, Inverness, Nairn, Banff, and Elgin. After describing the physical features of this wide district, the authors take up the Mammals, and then the Birds, with which we are more immediately concerned. We need hardly say, after the well-known abilities of both our authors, that this branch of their subject is most completely treated. The field-notes on every species in the List are full and complete, as in the former works of the same series, and will delight the heart of the lover of birds whether he studies them in the cabinet or in the field. The present volumes are well printed and got up, and excellently illustrated, in a style consistent with the high reputation of the publisher.

105. *Lilford's 'Coloured Figures of British Birds.'*

[Coloured Figures of the Birds of the British Islands. Issued by Lord Lilford, F.Z.S., &c., President of the British Ornithologists' Union. Part XXX., February 1895; XXXI., June 1895; XXXII., April 1896. Royal 8vo. London.]

Since our last notice (*Ibis*, 1895, p. 282), three more parts of our lamented late President's excellent work have made their appearance. They speak for themselves, and no

comment upon them is required for lovers of bird-life. We are much pleased to be able to announce that the task of completing this work has been committed to excellent hands, and that there is every prospect of it being brought to a speedy conclusion.

The following are the species now figured:—

Part XXX. *Linota hornemanni*; *Nyctala tengmalmi*; *Falco gyrfalco*; *Clungula albeola*; *Cosmonetta histrionica*; *Harelda glacialis*; *Somateria spectabilis*; *Columba livia*; *Ægialitis cantiana*, *Æ. curonica*; *Phalaropus fulicarius*; *Scolopax gallinula*.

Part XXXI. *Aquila nævia*; *Pandion haliaëtus*; *Somateria stelleri*; *Edemia perspicillata*; *Mergus cucullatus*; *Fulica atra*; *Edicnemus scolopax*; *Scolopax gallinago*; *Tringa temmincki*; *Totanus hypoleucus*; *Larus melanocephalus*; *Lestris richardsoni*.

Part XXXII. *Turdus sibiricus*; *Parus major*; *Muscicapa atricapilla*; *Fringilla montifringilla*; *Pyrrhula enucleator*; *Columba palumbus*; *Numenius phaeopus*; *Lestris parasiticus*; *Procellaria leucorrhœa*; *Puffinus obscurus*; *Uria brienichi* (two plates).

106. Lloyd on the Parrots of British Guiana.

[Some Guiana Parrots. By C. A. Lloyd. 'Timehri,' new ser. ix. p. 270.]

Mr. C. A. Lloyd gives us some excellent field-notes on the Psittacidæ of British Guiana. The Indians assert that *Chrysotis ochrocephala* "frequently breeds in company with *C. amazonica*, and that young birds of both species are often taken from the same nest." The species of *Brotogeris* generally lay their eggs in the deserted mounds of the Termites. *Caica melanocephala* "nests in holes high up in the trunks of trees." *Ara ararauna* breeds on the savannas, "making its nest in the dead trunks of the Eta Palm (*Mauritia flexuosa*)."

Mr. Lloyd concludes with a list of the 31 Parrots of the Colony and their "local habitats," known to him.

107. Meyer's Illustrations of Birds' Skeletons.

[Abbildungen von Vögel-Skeletten. Herausgegeben mit Unterstützung der Generaldirection der königlichen Sammlungen für Kunst und Wissenschaften. VII.—VOL. II.

schaft in Dresden. Von Dr. A. B. Meyer. Lief. XIX.–XXI. Folio. Dresden, 1894.]

Since our last notice of this important work (*Ibis*, 1894, p. 126), parts xix., xx., and xxi. have been issued together and raise the series of lithographs to two hundred and ten in number. No systematic order is observed in the numbering of the plates, and we fear that this may interfere with the usefulness of the work when brought to a conclusion.

108. *Milne-Edwards on the Similarity of the Faunas of the Mascarene Islands and the Antarctic Islands.*

[Sur les ressemblances qui existent entre la faune des Iles Mascareignes et celle de certaines de l'Océan Pacifique Austral. Par M. A. Milne-Edwards. C. R. d. Séances du Troisième Congrès Intern. de Zool. Leyde, 1896, p. 75.]

This is a report of a discourse delivered by M. Milne-Edwards at the second full meeting of the Third International Congress of Zoology at Leyden on Sept. 18th, 1895. The author reviews the discoveries of extinct birds made in Mauritius, Bourbon, and Rodriguez, and points out that, especially as regards the Ralline forms (*Aphanapteryx*, &c.), they show some surprising similarities to the fossil birds lately discovered by Dr. H. O. Forbes in the Chatham Islands (see *Ibis*, 1893, p. 544). The strange correspondence between the Dinornithidæ of New Zealand and the *Æpyornithidæ* of Madagascar is also pointed out.

109. *Nehrling's 'North-American Birds.'*

[North-American Birds. By H. Nehrling. With 36 Coloured Plates after Water-colour Paintings by Prof. Robert Ridgway, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., Prof. A. Goering, Leipzig, and Gustav Muetzel, Berlin. Parts IX.–XIV. 4to. Milwaukee, Wis., 1894–96.]

We have already stated (*Ibis*, 1894, p. 127) our candid opinion of Mr. Nehrling's 'North-American Birds.' Some of the plates are certainly good specimens of what can be done by chromolithography, while of others we cannot speak so favourably. The letterpress appears to have been carefully compiled.

110. *North on the Birds of Central Australia.*

[Report on the work of the Horn Scientific Expedition to Central Australia. Part II.—Zoology. Aves, by Alfred J. North. 4to. London and Melbourne, 1896.]

The bird-skins obtained by Mr. G. A. Kcartland in Central Australia during the Horn Expedition have been examined by Mr. Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S., the Ornithologist of the Australian Museum, Sydney, who reports that from an ornithological point of view the results are highly satisfactory, especially as the journey was made during a somewhat dry season, and rapid travelling interfered with thorough investigation. The specimens collected are referred to 78 species, amongst which are five novelties already characterized in this journal (see *Ibis*, 1895, p. 339). Mr. Kcartland's field-notes are appended to each species. *Calamanthus campestris isabellinus* from Missionary Plain is described as a new subspecies, and field-notes are added by Mr. Kcartland on 22 species observed during the expedition, but of which specimens were not brought back. Three coloured plates contain figures of *Spathopterus alexandrae*, *Ptilotis keartlandi*, *Rhipidura albicauda*, *Xerophila nigricincta*, and *Climacteris superciliosa*. Of the Alexandrine Parrakeet, we may remark, there are now living examples of both sexes in the Zoological Society's Parrot-house.

111. *North on the Nesting of some Australian Birds.*

[Notes on the Nesting of *Calyptorhynchus banksi* and *Erythrodryas rosea*. By Alfred J. North. *Victorian Naturalist*, xii. p. 136 (1896).]

Mr. North describes the eggs of the Banksian Black Cockatoo from specimens obtained in Western Queensland, where this bird lays in holes in big gum-trees along the Darling river; also the nesting of *Erythrodryas rosea*, as observed by Mr. Gabriel at Bayswater, Victoria, in December 1895. He gives a supplementary note on the nest of *Chlamydocherys orientalis*, in the Gulf district of Northern Queensland.

112. *Pycraft on the Wing of Archæopteryx.*

[The Wing of *Archæopteryx*. (Illustrated.) By W. P. Pycraft, M.B.O.U. Natural Sci. viii. p. 261.]

Mr. Pycraft now replies to Dr. Hurst's theory that the wing of *Archæopteryx* possessed five digits, and, it must be allowed, very effectually, so far as the evidence to be obtained from the only two specimens of this fossil bird yet discovered is available. He concludes with a useful "summary of the characters of *Archæopteryx*," and gives with it an illustration of the supposed appearance of this remarkable organism, after the fossil in the Berlin Museum.

113. *Report of the Society for the Protection of Birds.*

[Society for the Protection of Birds. Founded February 1889. Fifth Annual Report, January 1st to December 31st, 1895. 8vo. 1896.]

We notice the fifth annual report of the Society for the Protection of Birds in order to say that in our opinion this excellent association deserves support from members of the B. O. U. and from every lover of birds. Its terms of membership are not onerous, and we hope that all our readers will send in their names and subscriptions. The Society's main object is to discourage the wanton destruction of birds, and to excite an interest in their protection, while the present fashion of ladies wearing feathers in their hats is specially and rightly assailed. On this point we may state that several ladies had the audacity to flaunt feathers at a recent meeting of this very Society, and that this piece of cynicism was still more apparent at a meeting of the Anti-vivisectionists.

114. *Richmond on a new Plover.*

[Description of a new Species of Plover from the East Coast of Madagascar. By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, x. p. 53.]

Mr. Richmond bases *Ægialitis thoracica* upon five specimens in the U.S. National Museum, and selects as its type an example obtained by Dr. Abbott in June 1895 at Loholoka on the east coast of Madagascar. It is most nearly related to *Æ. varia* (Vicill.), but differs from it in the presence of a black pectoral band and in other points.

115. *Ridgway's 'Manual of North-American Birds.'*—
Second edition.

[A Manual of North-American Birds. By Robert Ridgway. Illustrated by 464 outline drawings of the generic characters. Second edition. Philadelphia (Lippincott), 1896. 1 vol. Royal 8vo. 653 pp.]

The object and plan of Mr. Ridgway's well-known 'Manual of North-American Birds' were fully explained to our readers in a notice of the appearance of the first edition, published in 1887 (see 'Ibis,' 1888, p. 137), and we have now before us a copy of the second edition lately issued.

During the eight years which have elapsed between the two editions, 91 species and subspecies have been added to the roll of the North-American Avifauna, and of these 12, having been included in the analytical keys of the first edition, come into the present edition in their right places, only a change in the typography of their names being necessary. The remainder are placed together in an Appendix at the end of the volume. This is certainly not quite a satisfactory plan, as it would be much better to have every species arranged in its proper systematic position. But it was, no doubt, convenient, as saving considerable alterations in the original text, and marginal references are introduced in the principal list to show the exact place where the new matter in the Appendix is to be interpolated. The following new subgeneric terms are proposed in this work:—*Oreospiza* (type *Fringilla chlorura*, Aud.) and *Arremonops* (type *Embernagra rufivirgata*, Lawr.).

116. *Ridgway on a new Geothlypis.*

[Description of a new Species of Ground-Warbler from Eastern Mexico. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 119.]

Geothlypis flavo-velata is a new species of Ground-Warbler from Eastern Mexico, allied to *G. beldingi* of Lower California.

117. *Ridgway on new Birds from the Galápagos.*

[Preliminary Description of some new Birds from the Galápagos Archipelago. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 293.]

After a re-examination of Dr. Baur's and other specimens of the Geospizine Finches of the Galápagos Archipelago,

Mr. Ridgway finds it necessary to establish five new species of this group—*Geospiza pachyrhyncha*, *G. fatigata*, *Camarhynchus bindloei*, *C. compressirostris*, and *C. incertus*.

118. *Ridgway on a new Subspecies of Peucedramus.*

[Description of a new Subspecies of the Genus *Peucedramus*, Coues. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 441.]

The Guatemalan form of *Peucedramus*, hitherto referred to *P. olivaceus* (Giraud), is separated as *P. o. aurantiacus*, subsp. nov.

119. *Rothschild and Hartert on the Birds of the Papuan Islands.*

[Contributions to the Ornithology of the Papuan Islands. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild and Ernst Hartert. I. List of three small Collections from British New Guinea, mostly brought together in the Owen Stanley Mountains.—II. Note on two more specimens of *Astrapia splendidissima*.—III. On the forms of *Macropteryx mystacea*. Nov. Zool. vol. iii. pt. i. March 1896.]

These articles, in which the Paradiseidæ, Ptilonorhynchidæ, and Rallidæ are treated of by Mr. Rothschild and the remaining groups by Mr. Hartert, contain many valuable additions to our knowledge of Papua and its islands.

In the first we have an account of two collections made in British New Guinea, in the district of the Owen Stanley Mountains, by Mr. Rothschild's collector, Anthony, and of a third from high elevations in the Victoria district. Among a number of rare Paradise-birds and Bower-birds, specimens were procured of *Drepanornis albertisi cervinicauda*, ScL.; *Astrarchia stephaniæ*, Finsch; *Paradisornis rudolphi*, Finsch et Mey.; *Parotia lawesi*, Rams.; *Amblyornis subalaris*, Sharpe; and a female of *Loria mariæ*. A plate is given to illustrate the differences between *A. inornata*, *A. subalaris*, and *A. flavifrons*. Mr. Rothschild now unites *A. macgregoriæ*, De Vis, and *A. musgraviana*, Goodwin, to *A. inornata*; he also separates the Jobi form of *Cicinnurus regius* as *C. regius coccineifrons*, subsp. nov. A perfect skin of *Paramythia montium* was procured on Mount Victoria. Mr. Hartert finds that the outer primary is not quite absent in this bird, though much reduced (*cf.* Selater, 'Ibis,' 1893,

p. 243). Mr. Hartert also describes as new *Pachycephala schlegeli obscurior*, *Ptilotis visi*, *Neopsittacus pullicauda*, and *Reinwardtæna reinwardti griseotincta*.

In the second article, Mr. Rothschild announces the receipt at Tring of two more male specimens of the magnificent *Astrapia splendidissima*, "quite complete."

In the third, Mr. Hartert discusses the various forms of *Macropteryx mystacea*, and institutes a new subspecific name, *M. m. woodfordiana*, for that from the island of Guadalcanar, the New Guinea bird being *M. m. typica*.

120. *Salvadori on Birds from South-eastern New Guinea.*

[Viaggio di Lamberto Loria nella Papuasìa Orientale.—XV. Collezioni Ornitologiche descritte da Tommaso Salvadori.—Nota quarta. Uccelli della Nuova Guinea Meridionale-Orientale. Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova, ser. 2, xvi. p. 55.]

In this—the last of the collections from Dr. Lamberto Loria—we find 187 species enumerated. The following are described as new:—*Syma megarhyncha* (Moroka) is distinguished from *S. torotoro*; *Ægotheles rufescens* (Moroka); *Monarcha heterurus* (Vikaiku); *Gerygone giulianettii* (Moroka) is distinguished from *G. poliocephala*; *Pachycephala sharpei* (Moroka); *Euthyrhynchus meyeri* (Moroka); *Sericornis perspicillata* and *S. olivacea* (Moroka); *Eupetes loriæ* (Moroka); *Manucodia orientalis* (Gerekanumu); *Diphyllodes xanthoptera* (Haveri, Moroka).

121. *Shufeldt on Progress in American Ornithology.*

[Progress in American Ornithology. 1886-95. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D. Amer. Nat. 1896, p. 357.]

The author compares at full length the numbers of the species and subspecies of American birds admitted in the first edition of the A. O. U. Check-list of American Birds in 1886 and the corresponding numbers admitted in the new edition of 1895, and shows in each case exactly how the alterations came to be made. In the first edition, 738 species and 209 subspecies were recognized; in the second edition, 755 species and 307 subspecies are allowed—an increase of 17 species and 98 subspecies. Dr. Shufeldt points out that no alteration

has been made in the systematic arrangement of the groups in the second edition, although during the nine years intervening between the publication of the two editions much has been done to bring the taxonomy of birds into an improved condition.

122. *Wilson and Evans's 'Aves Hawaiienses.'*

[*Aves Hawaiienses*: the Birds of the Sandwich Islands. By Scott B. Wilson, F.Z.S., assisted by A. H. Evans, M.A., F.Z.S. Part VI. July 1896. 4to. London: R. H. Porter.]

We welcome the arrival of Part vi. of Messrs. Wilson and Evans's '*Aves Hawaiienses*'; the issue of this work having been interrupted since April 1894, when Part v. was published. The new part contains well-drawn plates of the following species:—

<i>Phæornis palmeri.</i>	<i>Hemignathus affinis.</i>
<i>Chasiempis sandvicensis.</i>	<i>Himatione newtoni.</i>
— <i>sclateri.</i>	— <i>wilsoni.</i>
— <i>gayi.</i>	— <i>virens.</i>
<i>Loxops aurea.</i>	— <i>chloris.</i>
— <i>rufa.</i>	<i>Fulica alai.</i>
<i>Pseudonestor xanthophrys.</i>	

Mr. Wilson announces that he has determined to revisit the Sandwich Islands in order to aid in their complete ornithological exploration, and that by the time Part vi. is read by his subscribers he hopes to have safely reached Honolulu. The concluding part of the work will appear on his return from what he trusts may be a successful excursion.

123. *Witchell on the Song of Birds.*

[*The Evolution of Bird-Song.* By Charles A. Witchell. London: A. and C. Black, 1896.]

Mr. Witchell is to be congratulated on having produced a highly readable little work upon a subject of great interest. The volume is partly a detailed record of a number of observations taken by the author and partly an attempt to explain the general phenomena of the diversity and complications of the songs of birds. As the author has taken so much pains with the storing of his facts, he is, to our mind, perfectly at

liberty to try to weld together those ascertained facts by hypothesis. One of the most important matters with which he deals is the existence of mimicry of bird by bird, which is a much more widely spread phenomenon than many persons might be aware of. He arrives at the conclusion that this mimicry is essentially comparable to the colour-mimicry seen in so many animals; and, moreover, he finds a mimicry of—or rather, we should say, a protective resemblance to—the environment, which has also its analogue in the facts of animal coloration. The cry of the Robin reminds him of the pattering of raindrops; “the voices of Mallards, Flamingoes, Pelicans, and Herons resemble the croaking of frogs and toads,” and are therefore less likely to attract unwelcome attentions from birds of prey. We may also add that the note of the Bell-bird has the purposeless likeness to the tolling of a bell that the colours of many animals possess to objects which it cannot profit them to imitate. Nor is it certain that in these cases the resemblance of sound has been always produced by an actual effort on the part of the bird itself. The subject is a suggestive one, and is at least as worthy of consideration as the colour-phenomena with which it is sought to compare it.

L.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed “to the Editors of ‘The Ibis’”:

SIRS,—On April 29th last a male of the White-banded Mocking-bird (*Mimus triurus*, Vieill.; *Scl. & Huds. Arg. Orn. i. p. 8, pl. i.*) was shot near here. It is the first example of this species I have met with in this district during 25 years.

I am,

Yours &c.,

ERNEST GIBSON.

Aj6 (near Cape San Antonio),
Buenos Aires.

May 3rd, 1896.